

# **MichUHCAN**

**Testimony  
House Redistricting Committee  
June 21, 2011**

**My name is Marjorie Mitchell. I am Executive Director of the Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network (MichUHCAN). We are an education and advocacy organization dealing health care access issues and building healthy communities by addressing the social determinants of health that go beyond access.**

**I am here today to speak strongly for slowing down the process for the redrawing of Congressional and state districts. Regardless of which party is in power, the people of Michigan deserve the opportunity to be educated and provide input on the proposed changes. We all talk about the need for greater transparency in government and listening to the electorate. It is time to also “walk the walk”. Delaying decisions until the fall would be a way this state legislature could set an example on how to govern adhering to the premise that government in America should be “of the people, by the people and for the people”. Democracy is cumbersome and sometimes messy, but the effort to inform and let the electorate speak is what has made us great.**

**People have a right to know how these proposed redistricting maps will affect them and their community. If they cannot be defended to the people’s satisfaction, then they should be changed. If the people are convinced that they are the best, then they should be adopted. It would be good to present alternatives with pro and cons for the discussion. The goal should be to meet federal requirements while supporting a community’s need for representation that reflects their needs and culture.**

**Again, I urge you to slow down the process and consider future legislation that will assure that the next redistricting opportunity will truly be transparent and involve strong participation by our citizens, regardless of which party is in power.**

**Thank you for your consideration of my comments.**